

**UNCLASSIFIED**OCA  
INCOMING

UNCLASSIFIED

FRP: .2, . . .6, .

STAT

/ /  
 UNCLASSIFIED  
 IMMEDIATE  
 00 RUEAIIB  
 ZNR UUUUU ZOC STATE ZZH  
 STU2562  
 00 RUEHC  
 DE RUFHMD #2075 2651643  
 ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
 O 211642Z SEP 88  
 FM AMEMBASSY MADRID  
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5228  
 INFO RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
 RUEKJCS/JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
 RUFHNA/USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE 9339  
 BT  
 UNCLAS MADRID 12075

E.O. 12356: N/A  
 TAGS: MARR, PREL, NATO, SP, US  
 SUBJECT: "EL PAIS" REPORTS RIDGWAY TESTIMONY

1. THE LEADING MADRID DAILY, "EL PAIS", REPORTED SEPTEMBER 21 THAT EUR A/S RIDGWAY TESTIFIED BEFORE THE ~~HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST~~ SEPTEMBER 20 ON THE STATUS OF THE U.S.-SPANISH BASE NEGOTIATIONS. RIDGWAY REPORTEDLY TOLD THE SUBCOMMITTEE THAT ~~THE U.S. WANTS TO~~ CONCLUDE THE NEGOTIATIONS "AS SOON AS POSSIBLE", AND THAT THEY "COULD WELL BE CONCLUDED" BEFORE CONGRESS ADJOURNS NEXT MONTH. "EL PAIS" FURTHER QUOTES RIDGWAY AS STATING THAT "ALTHOUGH I SHOULD NOT GET AHEAD OF MYSELF SO MUCH, WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO DO IT."

2. THE "EL PAIS" ARTICLE REPORTED A/S RIDGWAY AS TESTIFYING THAT THE DELAY IN A NEW AGREEMENT IS DUE TO "COMPLICATED MATTERS", ADDING THAT HER TESTIMONY AVOIDED SPECIFIC MENTION OF THE NUCLEAR "INTRODUCTION", CRIMINAL JURISDICTION AND CUSTODY, OR BASE MANAGEMENT/CONTRACTING ISSUES. RIDGWAY REPORTEDLY INFORMED THE SUBCOMMITTEE THAT AMBASSADOR BARTHOLOMEW HAD JUST RETURNED TO MADRID AFTER A WEEK OF CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON, AND "I BELIEVE THAT WE ARE CLOSE TO RESOLVING THE MATTERS WHICH WERE NOT LEFT SETTLED IN JULY AND WHICH BARTHOLOMEW BROUGHT TO WASHINGTON."

3. REGARDING SPANISH PARTICIPATION IN NATO, RIDGWAY REPORTEDLY TOLD THE COMMITTEE THAT THE GOS HAS DEFINED ITS ROLE "AS IT CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE. AND FOR NOW, ALTHOUGH WE WOULD LIKE MORE, THE SPANIARDS HAVE MADE CLEAR WHAT IS POSSIBLE AND WE ARE BUILDING ON THAT." RIDGWAY SUPPOSEDLY ALSO SAID THAT THE GOS WOULD NOT BEAR ANY OF THE ESTIMATED COST OF \$500 MILLION FOR MOVING 72 F-16'S FROM TORREJON AIR BASE IN SPAIN TO CROTONE AIR BASE IN ITALY BECAUSE THE EXPENSE WILL BE BORNE BY NATO'S INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS, TO WHICH THE GOS DOES NOT CONTRIBUTE. IN ANY EVENT, ACCORDING TO "EL PAIS", RIDGWAY TOLD THE SUBCOMMITTEE THAT, "IT IS CLEAR THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS WISH TO PUT THIS AGREEMENT BEHIND US." BARTHOLOMEW

END OF MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED

**UNCLASSIFIED**